



Cumbria Seed Bank Young Volunteers Role Description

About the Cumbria Wildlife Trust

As one of 46 independent Wildlife Trusts, we are a local wildlife conservation charity. Cumbria Wildlife Trust cares passionately about wildlife and wild places – we're here to put wildlife back into our land and seascapes to make Cumbria a wilder county with more space for nature. We restore and connect wild places, work with nature to tackle the climate emergency and support people to take local action for wildlife.

We wouldn't be able to do what we do without the dedication and support from our community of 600 active volunteers, over 15000 members and supporters.

What is a Cumbria Seed Bank Young Volunteer?

We are looking for volunteers aged 15-25 who will help us gather and store plant species in Cumbria to protect the genetic diversity of vulnerable species, along with restoring endangered wildflower meadows.

Working with the Lottery Heritage Fund, we are a special outreach project with the Kew Millennium Seed Bank. By getting involved you will be at the forefront of delivering this unique project out in the field, through surveys identifying different plants, seed collecting and storage, and planting newly grown plants out across Cumbria.

What's in it for you?

- This unique project aims to a new cohort of young people in vital heritage skills
- You'll play a part in ensuring these endangered meadows get the restoration boost they badly need, following a 97% decline in these habitats since the 1930s
- In addition, this project culminates with an opportunity to be part of the 'Young Environmental Leaders' residential to Kew Millennium Seed Bank for those who have been most engaged with the project
- You'll become part of a friendly and dedicated team of volunteers and staff, at Gosling Sike, Houghton
- Learning new conservation and people skills

What's involved?

Learning about the different native plants and seeds found at the seed bank

Finding out how to preserve the seeds and store them correctly

Sowing seeds and replanting them as they grow

Identifying the plants out in the field

“Plug planting”: taking newly grown seeds into areas of Cumbria where they can flourish

Assisting with the tidying, and opening up/closing of the seed bank and polytunnels

Who would suit this role?

This role will suit anyone interested in volunteering with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, who loves nature and the outdoors. It would especially suit those who:

- Are aged 15 or over
- Have a natural enthusiasm for wildlife and want to learn more
- Enjoy working in an outdoor environment (in all weathers!)

However, please note that you don't need to have all of these interests or skills to undertake this volunteering role.

Extra information

Your place	Gosling Sike nursery, Houghton Road, Houghton, Carlisle CA3 0LD W3W///including.fame.shorter
Time commitment	Saturdays 10-2pm. NB you wouldn't have to attend every week
Volunteer Coordinator	Ruth Alcroft, Volunteer Coordinator volunteering@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
Staff Contact (if different)	Dan Richards DanielR@cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk
Training/Resources	Volunteer handbook and Trust induction. Health and safety training will be mandatory and provided for you. Volunteers are able to receive travel expenses of 0.45p per mile agreed in advanced with their staff contact.
Other Requirements	A site induction and orientation will be provided.

This role is purely voluntary and this arrangement is not meant to be a legally binding one or an employment contract